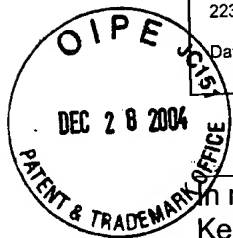


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV517916917US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 28, 2004 Signature: *Elisabeth Dunkle*

(Elisabeth Dunkle)

Docket No.: 55824(70551)
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Keiichi Hibi et al.

Application No.: 09/838,668

Confirmation No.: 8166

Filed: April 19, 2001

Art Unit: 2615

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APARATUS WITH
AUTOMATIC IMAGE PICKUP FEATURE

Examiner: V. F. Boccio

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs first, but before the mailing date of a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (37 CFR 1.97(c)). Please charge our Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$180.00 covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p). The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105, under Order No. 55824(70551). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

01/04/2005 AWONDAF1 00000066 041105 09838668

01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

Listed as "CA" in the enclosed PTO/SB/08 is a September 7, 2004 office action from the Japan Patent Office in connection with Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-117302, which is a foreign counterpart to this application. An English language translation of the September 7, 2004 office action is also enclosed herein and is listed as "CB" on the enclosed PTO/SB/08. Page 2 of the English language translation of the September 7, 2004 office action includes 4 (four) references within a "List of Publications." Two of these publications - JP07-123403 and JP09-219854 - are listed, respectively, as "BA" and "BB" on the enclosed PTO/SB/08. Additionally, a copy of each of these references, along with an English language Abstract thereof, is enclosed herein. The other two publications - JP11-018076 and JP10-285542 - included within the "List of Publications" are not listed on the enclosed PTO/SB/08 and copies are not provided herein. This is because the JP11-018076 and JP10-285542 publications were already made of record in connection with Applicant's August 9, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement with respect to this application.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Dated: December 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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|---|---|----|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | 09/838,668-Conf. #8166 |
| | | | | Filing Date | April 19, 2001 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Keiichi Hibi |
| | | | | Art Unit | 2615 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | V. F. Boccio |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 55824(70551) |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | | | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | BA | JP-07-123403 | 05-12-1995 | | | |
| | BB | JP-09-219854 | 08-19-1997 | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ** CITE NO.: Those document(s) which are marked with an double asterisk (**) next to the Cite No. are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² | |
| | | | | |
| | CA | Copy of September 7, 2004 Official Action for foreign counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-117302. | | |
| | CB | Copy of English translation of September 7, 2004 Official Action for foreign counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-117302. | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ** CITE NO.: Those document(s) which are marked with an double asterisk (**) next to the Cite No. are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in a prior application relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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